

# House News

Georgia House of Representatives - November 2005

## An "Umbrella" of Committee Support

In last month's newsletter, we talked about the "Season of Change" here at the Georgia House of Representatives, and now we would like to announce one of the most significant of those changes. Within the House, there are several departments and offices that work both with each other and independently. For years, the House has had a Research office and a Communications office, now those two offices have been combined under one umbrella. A new office to be known as 'Member Services.'

During last session, it became apparent to the House Leadership that more could be done to help make the committee process a more effective and efficient avenue for legislation. Member Services will now encompass a "Committee Services" division as well as a Communications division. Now, each chairman will be assigned an aide to facilitate the committee process. Each aide will be assigned to at least one committee to help the Chairman manage the legislation of their committee by providing tracking, preparing research on

legislation both proposed and pending, creating committee actions reports, and aide in preparing meeting packages.

The Committee Services department will be a nonpartisan source of impartial information on legislation and issues considered by the House. Year-round, Committee Services will produce committee newsletters, email updates, policy and research papers as well as responding to questions referring to legislation in the House. With this change, the House hopes to improve the communications and the work of the committees.

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**Guess Who**  
answer on back

# NOVEMBER

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Alva Inman	1st
Candice Blackwell	5th
Joyce Norwood	10th
Marsha Barnes	12th
Jenee' Burke	16
Rahmana Evans	16
Richard Areingdale	23



## Employee Spotlight!

CIARRA BROWN  
CLERICAL ASSISTANT – OFFICE OF THE CLERK

More than any other department in the House, the Office of the Clerk is probably the most publicly known source for information. Many say that this office is the House. When you walk into the Clerk's office in search of a bill or just wanting some information on just what goes on in the Georgia House, the face you see as you open the door is the daughter of an Irish immigrant and a Georgia native, Ciarra Brown. Even though she was just recently hired for her first full time job, Ciarra's been with the Clerk's Office for the past five sessions as a clerical intern. It's that experience that will help both the office and her hit the ground running in 2006.

Filling Julie Newman's shoes is no small order, but I think that the Clerk has found someone we will all come to count on. "I hope that I can bring a greater level

of efficiency to the constituent services aspect of the Clerk's office," said Ciarra.

Ciarra is a graduate of Georgia Tech with a degree in management, and was well on her way to becoming a certified public accountant. Luckily for us, the time she spent with the Clerk's office as an intern helped to convince her that there is no place like home in the House. "One of the things I like best about this job is that I have the opportunity to continuously learn new things," said Brown. It is that drive for knowledge that Ciarra hopes to one day lead her to her mother's homeland where she intends to become either a teacher, or start a career in historic preservation.

I can only speak for myself, but I think we all hope that that day comes much further down the road.



# Way to Go!



Whitewater Middle School quarterback Hayden Jordan drops back to pass in the middle school championship

Julie Jordan would like to brag on her son Hayden. The newspaper clip was hard to scan but I have re-typed the information...

"The Whitewater Middle School Wildcats needed a big play to preserve their undefeated season and win the Fayette County Middle School championship. They got it from Hayden Jordan and Kyle Dearing. Jordan completed a 26-yard pass to a diving Dearing down the middle in the fourth quarter, setting up Jordan's 1-yard

touchdown dive two plays later for the game's only score with 1:28 remaining to give Whitewater a 6-0 victory over Flat Rock in the Fayette County Middle School championship game Thursday at Whitewater High School. Whitewater ended the season 6-0. It's the second school from Fayette this year to go undefeated in football. Whitewater High School recently completed a 10-0 season. It's also the second time the young Wildcats have gone unbeaten in a season. "It feels great to win," Whitewater coach Jerry Anson said. "The kids have worked hard since day one. They deserve this championship." the game was a defensive struggle, as Whitewater finished with 146 total yards and Flat Rock had 98. But, with 3:10 left, Whitewater took over at the Flat Rock 35 following a short punt and was determined to break the scoreless tie. Jordan started the drive with a 12-yard pass to Justin Fletcher".

## WAY TO GO HAYDEN!!

**Beth Green's sons - Eli and Andy - having a good time on Halloween. Eli was Frankenstein and Andy was Jeff Gordon!!**





# Words of Wisdom

Madge Owens  
Administrative Assistant

The first voice, the first contact of the Georgia House is our Secretaries. Expected to know the answer to every question, to be able to solve any problem, the job of our administrative assistants can be daunting, but not to worry, Madge Owens has a few words to share about what helped her move from a suite of only four members to eight.

Madge first came to work at the Capitol in the Secretary of State's office for the honorable Max Cleland in 1983. She became a Secretary for the House of Representatives in 1992.

“Working at the tour desk, I had to learn my way around the Capitol. Becoming familiar with the Capitol before coming to work for the House of Representatives has enabled me to be much more efficient and effective in my present position,” said Madge. “I think that everyone should take the time to learn where all of the key offices and departments are located, and I would encourage everyone to take one of the guided tours to become familiar with Georgia’s history and government.”

Madge credits thoughtful, professional, supportive co-workers with assisting in her success through the years. "It's wonderful to work in a Spirit-filled, team-oriented atmosphere."

Madge says that one of the most important things she did to get use to a workload that doubled in the span of one session was to ‘keep things at your fingertips.’ And I think she’s right. The less time we spend searching for answers, the more time we can spend taking questions. Besides, that’s why we are all here – to serve the public. The public doesn’t care how many letters we have to write, or how many meetings we have to attend. “If we prioritize our assignments, it’ll make it easier to show them that they are our first priority,” finished Owens. - Brent Cranfield

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# We're on the Web!

[www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2005\\_06/house/index.htm](http://www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2005_06/house/index.htm)

## A Fresh Face...

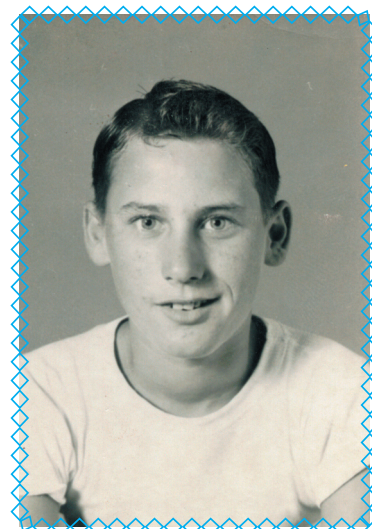
Dan O'Connor  
Research Analyst - Reapportionment

Whether or not you can call Dan O'Connor a fresh face around the General Assembly or the House is still up for debate, but there is no doubt that our Members are better off having his services available. Dan is one of the most experienced staffers we have in regards to politics and government in Georgia.

**Dan actually started with the Counsel of State Governments and then as a researcher for the South Carolina House of Representatives after he graduated from Washington & Lee University in 1986. He returned to Atlanta when he became a polling assistant for the Ayres & Associates consulting firm and the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce. Many of our Members know Dan from his demographic consulting work throughout Georgia politics.**

**Dan plans to bring a vision of the future to Reapportionment by helping our Members strategically plan for upcoming redistricting efforts. “My hope is to help the legislature be more prepared by not waiting until the next census to start the process, but by planning ahead based on current demographic trends,” said O’Connor. There is no doubt that in this era of vast population growth in Georgia, Dan is certainly a good addition to the Reapportionment office and a valuable resource to all of our Members.**

- Brent Cranfield



**This handsome young man is  
Phil Tucker - House Post Office!**